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CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

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CANADIAN DRUGGIST,
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SPECIAL REMINDERS.

We issue on the 15th of each month, therefore, Correspondence should reach us by the 7th. New Advertisements should reach us by the 7th. Changes of Advertisements should reach us by the 5th.

Volume Four.

WITH this number the CANADIAN DRUGGIST enters on its fourth volume, stronger and better than ever.

Commencing in 1889 with an issue of 20 pages, it has now attained more than double its original size, containing 48 pages, and recognized everywhere as the exponent of pharmaceutical affairs for the Dominion.

That such a journal as this was needed for Canadian pharmacists has been abundantly proven by the great success which it has attained in a short time, and from the fact that from one end to the other of this vast Dominion the CANADIAN DRUGGIST is a welcome visitor to all pharmacists, and the established organ of the entire trade.

Through the services of a number of regular contributors, we have been enabled to place before our readers every month events of interest to the profession which have occurred in the various Provinces of the Dominion and which must have a tendency to bring all pharmacists in this country in closer touch with each other, engendering a feeling of harmony and doing away with that mutual distrust, too frequently found between business

men in their peculiar lines, and is only by such interchange of ideas and the edge of each other that any movement to a Dominion organization of pharmacists, such as has been proposed, can be consummated.

We would invite druggists to make still further use of our columns by contributing to its pages, either in correspondence or articles on any special subjects of interest to our readers. Our columns are open to all, and as many matters which materially affect the business of the retail druggists are beginning to make themselves felt, we would ask for a full and free discussion of them in the CANADIAN DRUGGIST.

Drugs and Preparations Used in Dental Practice.

BY W. RUSHTON, L. D. S.

The author commenced by referring to the medicaments and appliances of by-gone times, as described in the "Arcana Fairfaxiana," of which so much has been heard from various sides lately. This work contained many quaint and curious recipes setting forth the virtues of some remedies still used three centuries later. Among these were pellitory of Spain, which was infused in vinegar, and white arsenic, employed now for the devitalizing of exposed tooth pulps. Laughter was also excited by the reading of an old recipe for toothache, which involved the use of "worms when they be a-gendering," and gave a number of quaint directions for use. Opium was another drug used in these early times, which was still a recognized remedy.

There could be no doubt that down to about 30 years ago dentistry was in a non progressive state, until the labors of Sir John Tomes began the movement which had reduced it to an exact science. The main causes of toothache, decay, &c., were now understood and made subservient to treatment. The author then proceeded to treat the drugs and preparations used in dental practice in classes, according to the purposes for which they are employed.

Among escharotics, chromic acid, nitrate of silver, chloride of zinc were mentioned. Arsenious acid was used to destroy the exposed sensitive pulp of a

tooth; the author had not found that the drugs mixed with the arsenic to allay the pain were of much service. Nitric acid, also employed for the same purpose, was open to many objections. Pepsin had been suggested as a solvent for the pulp, but its action was too slow to be much good.

Of anodyne agents, chloroform, chloral hydrate, spirit of camphor and cocaine were well known examples.

With respect to dealing with the pulp after it was dead, to prevent it undergoing putrefaction, every antiseptic new and old had been tried, such as creosote, mercury perchloride, iodoform—the unpleasant taste and odor were grave disadvantages of this agent—the oils of clove and eucalyptus, alcohol, thymol, naphthol, creolin, betanaphthol, &c.

Prof. Mueller, of Berlin, had made an exhaustive study of the efficacy of various antiseptics in preventing the decomposition of the pulp. Of course it had to be kept in mind that the antiseptic had not, so to speak, a fair chance; it was and could be applied only at one end, while the decomposition could begin at the other. Prof. Mueller, in accordance with this condition, arranged his experiments in a similar way, starting the putrefaction at one end of the pulp and the antiseptics at the other. The whole thing was then placed in nutritive agar-agar and the two processes left to fight it out together.

The results were expressed by dividing the substances used in three classes as follows:

(1) Antiseptics permanently active in the decomposition of the tooth pulp: Mercuric chloride in powder, mercuric cyanide, phenyl trichloride, carbolic acid, oil of cinnamon, camphophenique, hydro-naphthol.

(2) Antiseptics of doubtful value: Five per cent. mercuric chloride was among these; it only penetrated half way through the pulp.

(3) Antiseptics nearly or quite worthless for this purpose: Iodoform, basic aniline colors, borax, boracic acid, naphthalene, and many essential oils.

(4) Antiseptics not yet sufficient tested to enable their real value to be determined.

Speaking of teething, the author referred to the importance of phosphates and lime in the food, and emphasized the necessity of a diet containing plenty of bone forming elements for the mother during

